What is claimed is:

1. A method for playing a poker game, comprising in combination:

   dealing, face up, a NxN array of cards;

   selecting none, some, or all of the cards to be held in the NxN array of cards;

   dealing new cards to replace unselected cards; and

   determining the poker hand rankings of predefined N card arrangements.

2. The poker game of claim 1 wherein said NxN array of cards is a 5x5 array of cards.

3. The poker game of claim 1 wherein said NxN array of cards is a 3x3 array of cards.

4. The poker game method of claim 1 further comprising placing a wager on at least one payline prior to the initial dealing of the cards.

5. The poker game method of claim 4 further comprising determining whether said at least one payline wagered on includes a winning outcome after determining the poker hand rankings and if so, paying the player according to a pay table.

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6. The poker game method of claim 2 further comprising 12 paylines arranged as five vertical lines, five horizontal lines, and two diagonal lines.

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7. The poker game method of claim 6 further comprising allowing the purchase of said 12 paylines sequentially in a predetermined order.

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8. A program storage device readable by a machine, tangibly embodying a program of instructions executable by the machine to perform a method for playing a poker game, said method comprising in combination:

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    dealing, face up, a NxN array of cards;

    selecting none, some, or all of the cards to be held in the NxN array of cards;

dealing new cards to replace unselected cards; and

determining the poker hand rankings of predefined

N card arrangements.

5   9.   The poker game of claim 8 wherein said NxN array

of cards is a 5x5 array of cards.

10.   The poker game of claim 8 wherein said NxN array

of cards is a 3x3 array of cards.

11.   The poker game method of claim 8 further

comprising placing a wager on at least one payline

prior to the initial dealing of the cards.

12.   The poker game method of claim 11 further

comprising determining whether said at least one

payline wagered on includes a winning outcome after

determining the poker hand rankings and if so, paying

the player according to a pay table.

13. The poker game method of claim 9 further comprising 12 paylines arranged as five vertical lines, five horizontal lines, and two diagonal lines.

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14. The poker game method of claim 13 further comprising allowing the purchase of said 12 paylines sequentially in a predetermined order.

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15. A video poker game machine, comprising in combination:

means for displaying to a player a NxN array of cards;

means activated by the player for selecting some, none, or all of said cards to be held in said array;

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means for displaying replacement cards for said cards not selected as held in said array, if any; and

means for determining the poker hand rankings of predefined N card arrangements.

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16. The video poker game machine of claim 15 further comprising a touchscreen as at least one said means

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activated by the player for selecting some, none, or

all of said cards to be held in said array.

17. The video poker game machine of claim of claim 16

5 further comprising means for wagering at least one coin

to activate the game.

18. The video poker game machine of claim 17 further

comprising means for awarding an amount according to a

10 pay table and said amount wagered when the value of a

hand is determined to be a winning value.

19. The video poker game machine of claim 18 wherein

said NxN array of cards is a 5x5 array of cards.

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20. The video poker game machine of claim 18 wherein

said NxN array of cards is a 3x3 array of cards.

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